

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, AREA B,
BUILDING 20, AUDIOVISUAL LABORATORY
DAYTON VIC.
GREENE COUNTY
OHIO

HAER No. OH-79-BB

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, AREA B,
BUILDING 30, AUDIOVISUAL LABORATORY

HAER No. OH-79-BB

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Location: On north side of 3rd Street between G and K Streets; Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Area B, Dayton Vicinity, Greene County, Ohio.

Dates of Construction: 1942-43.

Present Owner: USAF.

Present Use: Headquarters for Detachment 2, 1361st Audiovisual Squadron, including WPAFB Television Production Studio.

Significance: Built in 1942 as the Technical Data Annex No. 1, Building 30 was designed as an audio visual facility, and has continued to function in that capacity for the last fifty years.

Project History: This report is part of the overall Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Area B documentation project conducted by HAER 1991-1993. See overview report, HAER No. OH-79, for a complete description of the project.

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DESCRIPTION: The Audio-Visual Laboratory is a two-story, rectangular, cinder-block building with a low-parapeted flat roof. There is a single header brick course under the roof coping that surrounds the building. All the windows are replacement, and have concrete sills. On the north and south sides, steel fire escapes have single steel access doors on both levels. The east entrance has wide steps with steel railings leading up to a set of canopied double steel doors, each with a single glass pane. A two-story addition is attached to the north side.

Office space occupies the two above ground floors, while the video studio, control room, graphics facility and video storage all reside in the basement. The current television production facilities were installed in 1988, and include computerized videotape editing equipment, digital graphics, and $\frac{1}{2}$ " SP Betacam VTR's. Also in the basement, eight original refrigerated (to 55°F) film vaults remain, although only one still serves that purpose. The vaults have special ducts leading straight up through the roof, should the volatile concentration of celluloid explode. The original dark room has been converted to a client's lounge/dressing room.

HISTORY: Built in 1942 as the Technical Data Annex No. 1, Building 30 was designed as an audio-visual facility, and has remained in that capacity for the last fifty years. Beginning in 1952, Building 30 personnel (then the 1350th Photographic Services Squadron) were responsible for writing, producing, directing, and editing all official Air Force films. Except for the period 1958-1962, when the Squadron (by then the 1350th Motion Picture Squadron) was located in Orlando, Florida, Building 30 continued to be the heart of Air Force film production until 1983. Now headquarters for Detachment 2, 1361st Audiovisual Squadron, including the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Television Production Studio, the building has been used primarily for video production since 1983.

For bibliography, see Wright-Patterson Air Force Base overview report (HAER No. OH-79).